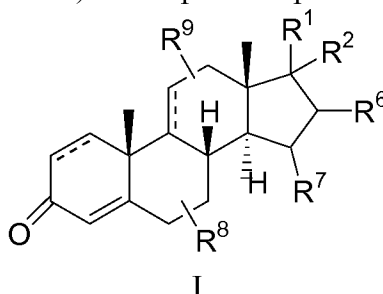


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of the claims which follows replaces any and all prior versions and/or listings of the claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A compound represented by Formula I



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R¹ is -C(O)-R⁵;

R² is -O-C(O)-N(R³) (R⁴),

R³, R⁶, and R⁷ are each independently selected from the group consisting of

- (1) hydrogen, and
- (2) C₁₋₃alkyl;

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of

- (1) C₁₋₁₀alkyl,
- (2) C₂₋₆alkenyl,
- (3) aryl, wherein aryl is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and naphthyl,
- (4) heteroaryl, wherein the heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, furanyl, thienyl and imidazolyl,
- (5) C₁₋₆alkyl-aryl, wherein aryl is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and naphthyl,
- (6) -C₁₋₆alkyl-heteroaryl, wherein the heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, furanyl, thienyl and imidazolyl,

wherein choices (1) and (2) and the alkyl portion of choices (5) and (6) are optionally mono- di- or tri-substituted with substituents independently selected from the group consisting of -OH, -OCH₃,

-OCF₃, -COCH₃, -CO₂CH₃, -CONH₂, -CN, -SO₂CH₃, -SO₂CH₃, -SO₂NH₂, F, Cl, Br, and -CF₃ and wherein choices (3) and (4) and the aryl and heteroaryl portion of choices (5) and (6) are optionally mono- or di- substituted with substituents independently selected from the group consisting of -OH, -OCH₃, -OCF₃, -COCH₃, -CO₂CH₃, -CONH₂, -CN, -SO₂CH₃, -SO₂CH₃, -SO₂NH₂, F, Cl, Br, and -CF₃;

or R₃ and R₄ are joined so that together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached is formed a ring of 5, 6, 7 or 8 carbon atoms, the ring being optionally substituted with -C₁₋₆ alkyl or -C₁₋₆alkenyl;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of

- (1) hydrogen,
- (2) C₁₋₆alkyl,
- (3) C₁₋₆alkyl, substituted with hydroxy,
- (4) C₁₋₆alkyl, mono or di-substituted with halo,
- (5) -C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(O)-C₁₋₄alkyl,
- (6) -C₁₋₆alkyl-O-C(O)-C₁₋₄alkyl, optionally mono or di-substituted with halo, hydroxy or methyl;
- (7) -C₁₋₆alkyl-S(O)_n-C₁₋₄alkyl, optionally mono or di-substituted with halo, hydroxy or methyl; and
- (8) C₂₋₆alkenyl,

wherein n is 0, 1 or 2;

R⁸ is halo, and

R⁹ is selected from the group consisting of

- (1) hydrogen,
- (2) halo,
- (3) hydroxy,
- (4) C₁₋₆alkyl,
- (5) C₂₋₆alkenyl, and
- (6) phenyl,

wherein choices (4), (5) and (6) are optionally mono- or di- substituted with substituents independently selected from -OH, -OCH₃, -OCF₃, -COCH₃, -CO₂CH₃, -CONH₂, -CN, -SO₂CH₃, -SO₂CH₃, -SO₂NH₂, F, Cl, Br, and -CF₃.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R⁶ is hydrogen or methyl.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R³ is hydrogen.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R⁷ is hydrogen.

5. (Canceled)

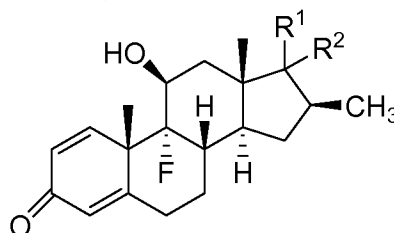
6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R⁹ is hydroxy.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

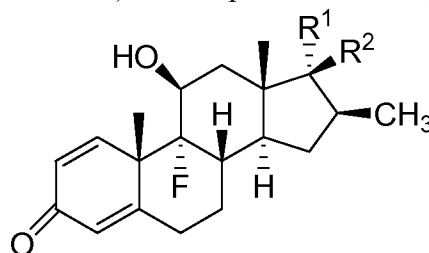
R³ is hydrogen, R⁶ is hydrogen or methyl and R⁷ is hydrogen.

8. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:



Ia.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound according Formula Ib



Ib

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R¹ is -C(O)-R⁵;

R² is -O-C(O)-N(H) (R⁴), and

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of

- (1) C₁-10alkyl,
 - (2) C₂-6alkenyl,
 - (3) aryl, wherein aryl is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and naphthyl,
 - (4) heteroaryl, wherein the heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, furanyl, thienyl and imidazolyl,
 - (5) C₁-6alkyl-aryl, wherein aryl is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and naphthyl,
 - (6) -C₁-6alkyl-heteroaryl, wherein the heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, furanyl, thienyl and imidazolyl,
- wherein choices (1) and (2) and the alkyl portion of choices (5) and (6) are optionally mono- di- or tri-substituted with substituents independently selected from the group consisting of -OH, -OCH₃, -OCF₃, -COCH₃, -CO₂CH₃, -CONH₂, -CN, -SO₂CH₃, -SO₂CH₃, -SO₂NH₂, F, Cl, Br, and -CF₃ and wherein choices (3) and (4) and the aryl and hereroaryl portion of choices (5) and (6) are optionally mono- or di- substituted with substituents independently selected from the group consisting of -OH, -OCH₃, -OCF₃, -COCH₃, -CO₂CH₃, -CONH₂, -CN, -SO₂CH₃, -SO₂CH₃, -SO₂NH₂, F, Cl, Br, and -CF₃;

R⁵ is C₁-6alkyl, substituted with hydroxy, or C₁-6alkyl-O-C(O)-C₁-4alkyl.

10. (Previously Presented) A compound which is

(11β,16β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl ethylcarbamate,

(11 β ,16 β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl ethylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl (1*R*)-1-phenylethylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl propylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl propylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl isopropylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl allylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl butylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl butylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl sec-butylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl sec-butylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl tert-butylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl tert-butylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl pentylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl pentylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl cyclopentylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxo-pregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 1,1,2,2-tetramethyl-propylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl (1*R*)-1-phenylethylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-21-(acetyloxy)-9-fluoro-11-hydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl (1*S*)-1-phenylethylcarbamate,

(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl (1*S*)-1-phenylethylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl (1*S*)-1-(methoxycarbonyl)-ethylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl phenylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl cyclohexylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 1-adamantylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 2-(1-adamantyl)-1,1-dimethylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl dicyclopropylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl spiro[2.4]hept-1-ylmethylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 1,1-dimethylbutylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 1-methylbutylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 1,3-dimethylbutylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl isopentylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 3,3-dimethylbutylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl *tert*-pentylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl neopentylcarbamate,
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl 1,2-dimethylpropylcarbamate, or
(11 β ,16 β)-9-fluoro-11,21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-3,20-dioxopregna-1,4-dien-17-yl propylcarbamate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12-16. (Canceled)